**Rez Sisters Project**

**Project Team 8:**

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Original Question:  
Given the video material concerning The Rez Sisters and the numerous scenes in the play, begin a discussion problems and possibilities for realizing this show in a particular venue (proscenium, arena, thrust, or flexible). How do you think it should be staged? Give some attention to the multiple locales of the scenes and the transition scene between the reservation and Toronto.  
  
Our thoughts:  
  
The best set up for this particular play would be Proscenium. The reason for our selection is that it has two wide wings in which big props can be taken on and off stage during scene transitions, without interruption. Some of the scenes in this play require the use of high ceilings, such as the beginning scene with our main characters on the roof of a house. With the proscenium setup, this can be achieved. During our most active scenes, such as the big fight scene, the cast could take advantage of the large apron that this setup can provide. To emphasize particular scenes, one could close the main curtain to focus on the characters themselves and not the background props.  
  
Staging: The house would be a little off center towards stage right, it would be rough looking in the scenes that are on the reservation, but would be nice looking enough to change the look for the scenes such as the BINGO scene and the funeral scene. We would use the house in all of the scenes in which the curtain is open, so it wouldn't have to be brought on and off stage. The scenes that are held on the apron when the curtain is closed will be simple. The characters will have the props in their hands but other than that it will be the intimacy that will make the scene.  
  
Thrust:  
Pros: more intimate between the actors and the audience, can still provide background set pieces in the rear of the stage such as the house, can have a mixture of blocking that is down on the thrust as well as back toward the rear wall, having the fight scene downstage (as long as it is well blocked and practiced) could be very entertaining for an audience  
Cons, Cannot have too elaborate of set pieces, costumes must be detailed, blocking down stage must accommodate the fact that some people will see the backs of actors, is difficult to portray transition scenes or shifting of location within a production (such as the shift from the reservation to Toronto)  
  
Arena:  
Pros: can easily show the roof of the house, can have audience around all sides of the stage  
Cons: Audience can see all sides of the stage so sets must be complete, at some point the audience will always see the backs of actors, difficult to have characters (such as Nanabush) within the background because there really is no "background"  
  
Flexible:  
Pros: can add new elements that enhance the message and atmosphere of the production, can be set up and performed even when a theatre space is unavailable  
Cons: difficult to smoothly and effectively show the transition between the reservation and Toronto, scenery and placement could take away from the reservation atmosphere of the show and inhibit the audience from imagining and relating to the setting of the play, transportation and movement of large set pieces such as the house may prove to be difficult depending on the chosen location of the flexible space